

Laura 10 March 1840.

My dear boy,

I know not if I told you that Fanny, on 28 Feb^r, wrote to me that she would accept my invitation. She promised to be here during the week. I know not now how to address a letter to her. Something has prevented her arrival. No further accounts have I received.

You will be as sorry as myself to hear that M^r Child, my tenant, has fled, leaving three quarters of rent due. I can get no account from Bohus. M^r Richards, by this time, is paid. Tom has proved himself to be a true borrower of his uncle's maxims. I think I ought to sell Child's house at once, notwithstanding M^r Skynner's reluctance. M^r May has lately been very backward in his payments. I impute no blame to him personally. All I mean is, that unexpectedly I am thrown into pecuniary difficulties. But these, which can be and will be set to rights, in no ~~any~~ way interfere with your advantage at the present moment. At your age one pound of assistance is worth more than ten pounds when I shall be under ground - or in M^r Swain's show-rooms.

You went on board the San Josef, and were much gratified. I - ditto - ditto. Only there was this difference. I dined on board with the Captain. He was sent to me by

Col^d Smith, that I might prepare his intended pamphlet for the press. Little was to be done. I do it willingly, and grate. You may imagine I was a welcome visitor. All the models for improvement were shown and explained to me. The first class boys were ordered out, and went through their lessons in gunnery, with geometrical disquisitions, and through their various exercises, and I passed some happy hours there, only wishing you had been with me.

Miss Penfry, my horror, has just come to pay me a visit. She will exterminate me. I intended a longer scrawl. Mrs Bowker is dangerously ill; it is possible, and probable she will leave the Captain free for a second wife.

Do not mention any thing about Fanny to uncle or aunt. I have just received a letter from him, and will answer it forthwith, and with its due signed inclosure.

Your affectionate father,
Chas Brown.

